

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING APPRENTICES FOR 2001**

**RICHMOND** – Secretary of Commerce and Trade Joshua N. Lief announced that the Virginia Apprenticeship Council has recognized four apprentices as Virginia's Outstanding Apprentices for 2001. The Council, in association with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, sponsors the awards program, which honors outstanding apprentices each year who have completed their training program and are nominated by their sponsoring organizations. Nominated apprentices are judged in many areas, including craftsmanship, accuracy, cooperation, leadership, decision-making, and consideration for their companies and co-workers.

Barry W. Baker, Chairman of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council, accompanied by Virginia Commissioner of Labor and Industry Jeffrey D. Brown, presented the 2001 Outstanding Apprentice Awards at a ceremony on December 13, 2001, to the following persons: (View Photo)

Christopher Anderson, a HVAC apprentice employed by EMC (Eveready Mechanical Corporation), Richmond;

Donna J. Blankenship, a nondestructive tester/electrician apprentice employed by Newport News Shipbuilding, Newport News;

Richard O. Marshall, a machinist apprentice at Hutchinson Sealing Systems, Wytheville; and

Wayne A. Young, a facilities maintenance mechanic apprentice employed by Tenneco Automotive-Walker Manufacturing Company, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

"I commend these outstanding apprentices for excelling in their work," stated Secretary Lief. "Their skill, hard work and commitment to apprenticeship results in a winning situation for the employees, their employers, and the Commonwealth."

Apprenticeship Council Chairman Baker stated, "The Virginia Apprenticeship Council is dedicated to fostering the job and skill development opportunities available through apprenticeship. Our 2001 outstanding apprentices exemplify the best of what apprenticeship has to offer."

"I am very proud of our outstanding apprentices this year," stated Commissioner Brown. "Apprenticeship is a proven, efficient workforce development program that helps ensure a highly skilled, quality, healthy and safe workforce."

The Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Program was established in 1938. Apprenticeship training is used in more than 300 occupations in Virginia, with over 1,800 apprentices registered each year. There are currently over 15,000 registered apprentices employed by more than 2,500 employers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information on apprenticeship can be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor and Industry's website at [www.doli.state.va.us](http://www.doli.state.va.us).

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